

Arkansas Cherokee to Andrew Jackson, April 18, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

CHEROKEES OF ARKANSAS RIVER TO JACKSON AND MEIGS.

April 18, 1817.

To the Honourable Major General Andrew Jackson

Sir. We the Cherokees that live on the Arkansas River beg leave to present to you our best wishes for a long life and prosperity *Father and friend* we live a long way from you and cannot all be present to see you. we have therefore in full Councill appointed two of our party agents vested with full power to transact our business with our Father the President and the Chiefs of the old Nation. we hope Sir you will Receive them and consider them as if we where [*sic*] present ourselves we have directed them to speak with you ask your advice for our good.

For Colonel Megs

3700 is our Standing Number. Since last fall that we talked with Governor Clark,¹ We have not aded the Numbers that have come since

¹ William Clark, governor of the Missouri Territory.

and is on the River coming. My Fathers and friends G Jackson and Colonel Meggs, we understand are about holding a treaty with the Chiefs of the Cherokees about Land.

Colonell Meggs you Remember very well I know that the Cherokees sent a deputation to federall City in the year 1807² how they were divided concerning coming to this Country and that the President agreed with both parties and I was advised to come to this Country

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and I have the paper to shew. you have the paper also. My friends and Brothers your Chiefs of the Cherokees you remember the Councill at Brown Town. when my coming to this Country was fully digested and talked off and you all agreed, I did not steal it from you. Now I understand some of you since, that you turned your talks another way, what I am talking about is a long time back I am not bred of you. My friends you are still in your houses. I still think of You I keep hearing crooked talks about me from you. Now the time is I will speak about Land—this day I think myself very strong and my people is coming to me every day we do not think of looking back nor going back—we love our Country here. My freinds your Chiefs our fathers General Jackson and Col. Meggs. I Expect you understand what I say we sent our talk by John D Chisholm and James Rogers I Expect when I hear from my father the President I shall hear that all is done to satisfaction I hold his arm fast. My father General Jackson and Col Meggs there are two roads leading to help my people keep the Roads open and clear for them I never loose sight of the Presidents talks to hold all people by the hands I have done so.

2 1808 and 1809.

I am now compelled to let go the hands of the Osages because they let mine go and the Presidents also. they are daily stealing my property and killing my people and white people also. you ask to know the size of the Osage purchas³ we do not wish the Goverment to Run it. it will be a bad President if you agree to pay their damages—their will be and end to their stealing. My young men have now took their guns in their hands we mean to make our Crops before we begin. I expect a great many of my freinds from the old Nation. I mean to have provision for them I mean to wait three months to work the Corn I also expect my friends from the old nation in that time to assist me. General Jackson and Col Meggs I ask your advise should I conquer the Osages and drive them off will not the Land be mine. the depredations committed on us and on the whites and French are not Resented by them, I now resent it I cannot take it any longer. My freinds and Brothers your Chiefs of the Old Nation I am informed by Governor Clark, that you was to see the President last you denied us and said that none of the anuity or Land belonged to us. Why

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say you so if we Cherokees in the Old Nation we are Cherokees here also and we have not changed our nation nor rights. Colonell Meggs and General Jackson we ask you to let our deputies to have their expences paid to them. as we have no agent we look to our fathers. We conclude by saying we are your Children and friends.

3 Under the treaty of Nov. 10, 1808.

Done in full Councill this 18th day of Aprill 1817 Signed by the Chiefs in behalf of the whole

In the presence of Joseph Severe and William Ware

Kacuttokah

Tallan Tuskey

Black Fox

Sanawney

Waterminor

Kiami

Thomas Graves